

## ***Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group***

### **Meeting Minutes**

***March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008***

#### **Summary**

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##### **Epidemiology Work Group Members in Attendance (8):**

Phillip Stevenson, Chair, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Wendy Wolfersteig, Arizona Prevention Resource Center, Arizona State University

Jody Sekerak, Indian Health Services

Richard Porter, Arizona Department of Health Services

Meena Shahi, Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health Services

David Choate, Arizona State University proxy for Charles Katz, Arizona State University

Michelle Anderson, Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections

Zeenat Mahal, Epidemiological Center, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona

##### **Epidemiology Work Group Members Absent (7)**

Jeanne Brandner, Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts

James Cunningham, University of Arizona

Wesley Kortuem, Arizona Department of Health Services

Catherine Osborn, Arizona Department of Education

Dennis Embry, PAXIS Institute

Katherine Guffey, Arizona Department of Economic Security

Gowri Shetty, Arizona Department of Health Services, Tobacco Education Prevention Program

##### **Governor's Office Staff (3)**

Jeanne Blackburn, (GOCYF, DSAP)

Morgan Hester, (GOCYF, DSAP)

Patrick Harris, (GOCYF, DSAP)

##### **Public (2):**

Michelle Neitch, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Gordon South, Arizona Department of Health Services

**Call to Order** was made by Phillip Stevenson at 1:09 p.m.

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

- Phillip Stevenson asked the attendees and guests present to introduce themselves and their respective agency/group.



### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- Phillip Stevenson asked if anyone had any changes to the previous month's meeting minutes.
  - Michelle Anderson asked that her job title be changed from Arizona Department of Corrections to Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections.
  - Wendy Wolfersteig recommended correcting several grammatical errors.
- It was motioned that the meeting minutes be accepted with the recommended corrections. Phillip Stevenson seconded the motion. When prompted, all members in attendance offered their acceptance of the motion. There were no dissenters. Meeting minutes were accepted with corrections.

### **Announcements**

- Michelle Anderson notified group of upcoming AZENet Phoenix Area Cluster Meeting to be held April, 3<sup>rd</sup> as well as the upcoming Spring '08 conference entitled "Managing and Overseeing Evaluation Projects."
  - Several open board positions on the AZENet, all of which can be self-nominated. If interested, e-mail Michelle.
- Michelle Neitch updated group on the status of AYS survey efforts:
  - 110,000+ surveys sent to 384+ schools.
  - Meena Shahi submitted report of the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Youth "*Dare To Be Different*" conference, sponsored by the Arizona Department of Health Services' Statewide Youth Advisory Council.
    - Learned about several new drugs gaining popularity, as well as new slang words being used for types of drugs.
    - Focus group consisted of 20 kids, all in varying degrees of treatment, from those to just entering treatment, to those who have been there 82 days or more.



### **Substance Abuse Treatment Capacity Assessment: Update**

- Jeanne Blackburn reported that the substance abuse treatment capacity assessment had been sent out to executive-branch state agencies and the AOC.
  - Data are due back to March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008.
  - DSAP director Kim O'Connor wants the report available by April 7<sup>th</sup> for review by the Executive Director, with the report subsequently submitted to the Governor on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008.
  - Survey puts spotlight on EPI Work Group.
  - In reaction to this, there will be growing group responsibilities.
  - Question posed as to whether any agencies had received "pushback" as a result of the capacity assessment.
- Meena Shahi mentioned that that DBHS decided to do an inventory of service providers, and that only the first question of the Substance Abuse Epidemiology survey is included in the network inventory.
- The Governor expects frequent future updates.
- Dennis Choate recommended creating a standard template for the submission of data/information on what actions agencies have taken thus far to prioritize treatment for families in the child welfare system, and added that this should be complemented by a supplemental page that can differ for each group submitting information.
  - Wendy Wolfersteig mentioned that this provides the possibility of examining the data in different ways.
- Morgan Hester informed the group that DSAP/ASAP is already working on a standardized template tool for this purpose.
- Phillip Stevenson requested that DSAP give EPI Work Group proper notice before expecting them to take on assessments.
- Meena Shahi agreed that ADHS also needs advance notice for assignments.
- Jeanne Blackburn posed the question of how we can collaborate to avoid the duplication of data.
  - Morgan Hester mentioned that Patrick Harris, the DSAP intern, has been working on organizing the ASAP subcommittee rosters by agency, making a master roster to encourage collaboration.
  - Phillip Stevenson noted that efforts like this roster would be helpful in encouraging collaboration.
- Wendy Wolfersteig asked whether EPI should expect a formal copy of the substance abuse treatment services capacity assessment for review at the next meeting.
  - Jeanne Blackburn responded that it will depend upon the meeting with the Governor on the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Phillip Stevenson reiterated that EPI would be more than happy to help with data projects, however, it respectfully asks that advance notice be given when possible.
- Wendy Wolfersteig asked whether they are having EPI review the submitted data.
  - Jeanne Blackburn responded that it is her job to collect it, get it into SPSS, distribute it to group, and then gather feedback and findings.



### **Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership: Update**

- Phillip Stevenson went over the general format of ASAP meetings to inform the group of the process.
- Phillip gave presentation at last EPI meeting, in which he:
  - Emphasized to ASAP what EPI does, what it does not do, and what they wish they had the capacity to do.
    - The wish list included:
      - Substance abuse treatment capacity inventory & emerging issues
      - Adult substance abuse survey
      - Surveillance strategy, community sensor strategies
      - Dedicated data clearinghouse devoted to these data, not just EPI workgroup volunteers.
  - Dennis Burke addressed budget crisis at the ASAP meeting, and how it is necessary for everyone to work without expecting additional resources.
- Jeanne Blackburn mentioned that Phillip Stevenson did a good job at ASAP meeting, and that Dennis Burke and Irene Jacobs were impressed with his EPI presentation.
- Morgan Hester offered to send out ASAP meeting times to EPI staff members, so those that are interested may attend the meetings.

### **Emerging Issues Subcommittee: Update**

- Dennis Embry, “Emerging Issues” Chair absent.
- Meena Shahi, updated group on “Emerging Trend” fact sheet progress.
  - Phillip Stevenson posed the question of whether mental illness is the topic that the EPI Work Group wants presented as the first fact sheet.
  - Meena Shahi responded that so far, it’s just an example of what can be done with the fact sheets.
  - Phillip Stevenson reminded the group of the hierarchical committee process, Emerging Issues brings issues to EPI, and then EPI brings those issues to ASAP.
  - Other reports are concerned with issues like prescription drug abuse, which would be recommended instead of mental illness.
  - Should do most pressing and relevant topics first.
- Wendy Wolfersteig announced that the next topic for Emerging Issues fact sheet is whether the economic recession is affecting drug abuse.
- Phillip Stevenson read Dennis Embry’s report on the previous focus group, and found it very informative and interesting.
- Meena Shahi announced the hope for further focus group discussions, very helpful because the kids in the group were providing the practical answers to questions commonly posed in EPI meetings.
- Meena Shahi noted that the adolescents in the focus group were most impacted by the advice of other youth who have been through the system.
- Question posed to Michelle Anderson whether this sort of thing would be beneficial for ADJC youth.



- Michelle Anderson responded that there were probably too many hoops to jump through in such a process, however, if it were possible to navigate the process that beneficial information would be gathered.
- Phillip Stevenson asked if it would be easier to collect this kind of data from juvenile detention centers.
- Michelle Anderson responded that it would be interesting to see how much money is spent on juveniles who exit and re-enter the system.
- Phillip Stevenson mentioned a problem with counties sending juvenile offenders to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections because of the lack of funding that counties have to address the issues.

#### **Epi Deliverable: Substantive Area for the 2008 “Snapshot of Arizona” Document**

- Jeanne Blackburn reminded the group that the EPI Work Group must complete a yearly snapshot and asked what area the group wants to focus on for this year’s Snapshot document.
- Phillip Stevenson recommended collecting more data on the rises in prescription drug abuse or the gender differences in substance abuse data.
  - 2008 AYS survey includes more types of prescription medication, including over-the-counter medications like Coricidin.
  - It is important to ask law enforcement about the data concerning over-the counter drug abuse, theft, etc.
- Jeanne Blackburn mentioned that she was doing a mapping project for one of her graduate classes on risk and protective factors using AYS data, and mentioned that it may coincide with EPI’s interest in OTC/prescription drug abuse data collection.
- Phillip Stevenson reminded the Work Group that the purpose of the document must be kept in mind (i.e., it must be based on the goals of EPI and ASAP).

#### **Looking Forward: Identifying and Obtaining Data for the 2009 EPI Profile:**

- Phillip Stevenson tabled this section of the meeting until a later time due to lack of time and reminded the group to begin to refine what to include in the upcoming (2009) EPI profile.

#### **Call to Public**

- Public present, however, no comments from guests in attendance.

**Adjourn** at 3:04 p.m. with reminder next meeting will be held on April 16, 2008.

Minutes submitted by Patrick Harris (GOCYF, DSAP).